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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/043,394	01/10/2002	Gerrit Klaerner	SMX 3093.6 (2001-006R1)	4664

321 7590 10/06/2004

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

CEPERLEY, MARY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	1641

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/043,394	KLAERNER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mary (Molly) E. Ceperley	1641	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-110 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-110 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

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1) The following problems need to be corrected.

- a)** Claim 4, the last line, "X" should be "E".
- b)** Claim 20 is improperly dependent from claim 20.
- c)** The use of the term "groups" for the attachment of a probe" of claim 1 is inconsistent with claim 4 wherein only a single functional group is available on the polymer chain for the attachment of a probe.

2) Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-28, drawn to a two component biosensor comprised of a substrate surface containing a polymer layer (having multiple sites for the attachment of a probe) on the surface and a separate probe, classified in class 435, subclass 975.
- II. Claims 29-48 and 70-76, drawn to biosensors comprised of a substrate surface containing a polymer layer having probe(s) attached to the polymer, classified in class 530, subclass 391.1 and 816.
- III. Claims 49-69 and 102-110, drawn to polymer brushes having both a hydrophobic polymer layer and a hydrophobic layer containing functional groups, classified in class 436, subclass 527.
- IV. Claims 77-89, drawn to a method of preparing a polymer brush comprising forming a hydrophobic layer on a substrate surface and forming a hydrophilic layer on the hydrophobic layer (no functional groups on the layers), classified in class 436, subclass 531.
- V. Claims 90-101, drawn to a method of preparing a polymer brush (polymer brush is of a different scope than the brush of Invention III), classified in class 435, subclass 6.

3) Inventions I-V are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

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Inventions I-V are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case, as indicated in paragraph **2)** above, the "sensors" and "polymer brushes" of Inventions I-III each require different sets of functional components while the methods of preparation of each of Inventions IV and V prepare "polymer brushes" which are not the same "polymer brushes" defined in Invention III.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter requiring divergent fields of search and different patentability considerations based on the required components of the compositions, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4) The claims are generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising water-soluble or water-dispersible polymer layers as defined by the patentably distinct structures depicted in claim 6, the structures depicted in claim 9 and the additional structures N-acryloxsuccinimide and glycidyl methacrylate of claim 10.

For the election of any of Inventions I-VI, applicants are required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species, even though this requirement is traversed, i.e. applicants must elect a specific species of "substrate surface", a species of "layer" which resides on the substrate surface, and a specific "probe", "molecule" and "spacer" if these are required elements of the elected invention.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one

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of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

- 5)** Applicants are advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).
- 6)** Applicants are reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

7) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mary (Molly) E. Ceperley whose telephone number is (571) 272-0813. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long V. Le can be reached on (571) 272-0823. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

September 27, 2004

Mary E. Ceperley
Mary (Molly) E. Ceperley
Primary Examiner
AU 1641